examining their coverage, 20 units were found coverable and were registered under the Act.

(c) Periodical surveys are carried out by the ESI Corporation to register all coverable units under the Act from time to time. During the year 2002-2003, 892 such surveys were carried out.

Nation-wide Trade Union Strike

1287. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the representatives of the Trade Unions had met him on the 19th May, 2003 on his invitation and made clear their decision to go ahead with the nation-wide trade union strike to protest against the economic, anti-national and anti-people policies of Government;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government was presented an eight point charter of demands; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The main demands raised by the Central Trade Unions were:

- Halt to privatisation of profit making and potentially viable public sector undertakings.
- No change in the labour laws in favour of the employers and against the interest of the workers.
- Immediate enactment of comprehensive legislation for agricultural workers.
- No to policies leading to severe aggravation of joblessness and unemployment.
- Widen comprehensive social security schemes for all, including workers in unorganised sector.
- Restoration of quantitative restrictions on imports.
- Amendment of Payment of Bonus Act by removing all ceilings.
- Restoration of 12% interest rate of P.F. deposits.

Review and updation of Government Policy is an on going process for bringing it in tune with the emerging needs of the economy. Efforts are made to evolve a consensus on major economic issues through tripartite consultations.

Bill for unorganised workers

†1288. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Bill proposed to be introduced for the protection of labourers of unorganised sector-has been withheld by Government due to the objections of the Ministry of Finance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are neglecting the interests of the workers; and

(d) what further steps Government are taking in the interest of the workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (d) A proposal to enact a legislation of Unorganised Sector Workers is still under consideration of the Government.

Welfare fund for Unorganised Workers

1289. DR. ABRAR AHMED:

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up Welfare Fund for some categories of unorganised labour;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the amount disbursed and labourers helped during the last two years, year-wise;

(c) whether some other kind of social security cover is also available to the unorganised workers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Government have set up five

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.